

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
ARA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 /086 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: - U.S. PRESS TREATMENT APRIL 12-

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF LOOK AT U.S. PRESS COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN ZAIRE.
2. APRIL 12, EVENING TELEVISION COVERAGE FOCUSSED ON THE U.S. DECISION TO AUTHORIZE 13 MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE FOR ZAIRE. NBC, AND ABC PROVIDED SHORT SYNOPSES, CBS INCLUDED REPORT FROM KALB NOTING THAT "THE U.S. TURNED DOWN ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY MILITARY ASSISTANCE LARGELY BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION." HE ADDED,
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"IN AN EXAMPLE OF DIPLOMATIC JAWBONING THE U.S. APPEALED TO KATANGAN REBELS TO STOP THE FIGHTING AND PULL BACK INTO ANGOLA."

3. ALL MAJOR EAST COAST DAILIES CARRIED THE DECISION TO SEND ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AS FRONT-PAGE STORIES. ROUNDUP OF OTHER STORIES FOLLOWS:

(A) NEW YORK TIMES (4/13)

-- MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN IN A NEWS ANALYSIS CONCLUDES THAT THE U.S. RESPONSE TO ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE SIGNALS A NEW ALOOF POLICY TOWARD AFRICA. HE RECOUNTS OUR PAST INVOLVEMENT WITH ZAIRE/CONGO AND CONTRASTS IT WITH OUR PRESENT RESERVE.

-- AN EDITORIAL HEADED "ZAIRE MADE CLEAR" POSTULATES THAT THE BASIC UNREST IN ZAIRE IS TRIBAL RIVALRY BETWEEN THE LUBAS AND THE BAKONGO. IT THEN POINTS OUT ALL THE FOREIGN POWERS WHICH FOR THEIR OWN REASONS HAVE BECOME INVOLVED. IT URGES A U.S. POLICY OF CAUTIOUS INTEREST AND RESTRAINT.

(B) THE WASHINGTON POST (4/13)

-- ROBIN WRIGHT REPORTS FROM KOLWEZI THAT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE KATANGAN TROOPS WILL SEEK TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH MOROCCAN FORCES IN KOLWEZI AND INSTEAD TRY TO CUT TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION LINKS TO THE CITY.

-- DON COOK REPORTS FROM PARIS GISCARD'S VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF THE FRENCH AIRLIFT OF MOROCCAN TROOPS TO ZAIRE.

(C) CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (4/13)

-- IN AN EDITORIAL HEADED "MOROCCO AIDS MOBUTU" THE MONITOR PRAISES THE WILLINGNESS OF OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPOND TO AN APPEAL FOR HELP MADE THROUGH THE OAU AND TAKES ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S "UNDERESTIMATING, OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN FORCES.

-- TWO MONITOR CORRESPONDENTS, ROBIN WRIGHT AND JUNE GOODWIN, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE WRITTEN FROM AFRICA, HAVE WON MAJOR AWARDS GIVEN BY THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB.
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